THE BUCKLEY LAND GRANT

by Ruloh B Ruchley, 1967

The grant for the Buckley property was made before the Revolutionary War and was signed by King George III of England. It was granted to Joshua Buckley about 1762 and was what is known as a "Tomahawk Grant" - so named because the white settlers had a treaty with the Indians that the whites would not settle in the Ohio River watershed. The pioneers persuaded the Governor of Virginia that the Greenbrier River emptied into the Atlantic Ocean.

The original plot of land was bounded as follows: Starting at a point one block north of the present Court House in Marlinton, a straight line to the top of the mountain at the Lone Tree Knob, then along the top of the mountain to encompass the watershed of Swago Creek; thence to a point at the island at the mouth of Improvement Lick Run; thence north to the mouth of "Black Stump" Hollow; thence a straight line to the mouth of Mundy Lick Run; thence to the starting point in Marlinton.

The part at Marlinton was taken from the original tract by a court order and given to the McLaughlin family.

As Joshua's family became mature each was given a tract of land. The division was as follows: Hettie married George Kee and was given that part of the farm north of the Big Rocks in the Greenbrier River and west to the top of the mountain at Lone Tree Knob. Joe Buckley married Betty Gibson and was given that part of the land west of the river, south of the Kee tract and south to Swago Creek, with the exception of the flat land just north of the mouth of Swago Creek. John Buckley married Patsy Casebolt and was given the tract south of Swago Creek and the flat land mentioned above. When his parents became old John moved to the east side of the river, built a house just north of his parents' home. At their death he inherited the land east of the river. When the McNeill family came in 1777 they were given the limestone flat land on the southwest.

The Kee farm was later divided. Polly was given the part east of Route 219 and to the river. Joshua Kee got the part east of the river. George got the part north and west of the point where the highway tops the Price Hill. Aaron got the remainder of the Kee land.

The John Buckley tract west of the river was sold to several families. The Amiss family got the part north of Bugo Creek. This later was sold to the Auldridges and Charley Young.

The Joe Buckley land went to the Ochletree family, then to John Gay and Joe McNeill and is nor owned by Lewis Gay.

The homestead east of the river was given to Joshua Buckley. This was divided as follows: Margaret and Charles Young, Jane and Columbus Silva, Andy Rose, and Clinton Courtney.

During this generation all the tracts once owned by Joshua Buckley II were bought back with the exception of a few acres owned by the heirs of W. M. Young. Several acres have been added to the homestead; namely, the McCoy farm at the head of Williams River and 575 acres of cut-over timber-land east of the farm.

Joshua Buckley II was a minister at heart rather than a farmer. With his large family and small income it became necessary to sell parts of the farm. He sold the lower part of the river bottom to George Overholt and some of the hill land to Charles Young and Clinton Courtney. The upper part of the bottom was given to daughter Jane and Columbus Silva. This left only a small section with the home. Later this was mortgaged for debt, and at the time his son John took over the management of the farm, all was gone or mortgaged for all it was worth.

John began to gather the land together again and to pay off the debts. This was during the depression of the 1880's. He worked as a carpenter, helping to build the store for Daniel McNeill. His wages were seventy-five cents a day. Later the lumber interests began to cut the timber on the Greenbrier River and float the logs to Ronceverte to the sawmill. John soon learned to guide the arks down the river and became the pilot of the arks. This was a job of considerable responsibility and paid a little better wages than the other men got. However, it could not be done during the winter months.

Several companies were buying tracts of land and timber in Pocahontas County. Many of these companies knew little or nothing of the country. John learned to estimate timber and would make estimates for a fee. This gave him a good income, and it could be done during the winter. In this way he could work almost all the year.

During this time much of the work on the farm was done by the wife and children. Since John was able to be at home at some time during each week, he could manage the farm quite well. He soon paid the mortgage on the home.

About 1897 when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad began to build the Greenbrier Division there was yet a debt of two bundred dollars, which was owed to Columbus Silva. In order to give a deed for the right-of-way for the railroad,

Joshua, then the owner, deeded eight acres of land lying between the homestead and the Overholt tract to Silva. This was known as the "Little Orchard".

In 1906 Aumiller Brothers were looking for a tract of timber to cut. They contacted John Buckley, knowing that he could estimate timber and that he had cruised the timber on his own lands as well as that on the Silva and Young (then Thomas) farms.

The Aumillers made an offer based on the extimate which had been made. That part belonging to Silva was the best grade of timber, and they offered one thousand dollars for it.

John then began to try to buy the Silva farm. They offered to sell all except the "Little Orchard" for twelve hundred dollars. The deal was made and the timber was sold, leaving a balance of two hundred dollars outstanding. By this time Jay Buckley was old enough to work on public works, and he and his father went to work and paid off the outstanding debt.

In the meantime, the Overholt farm had been bought by Charles Young and sold to James Cook. After Walter Graham married Addie Buckley, he and Jay Buckley bought the lower end of the river bottom from Cook. The "Little Orchard" remained in the hands of the Silva girls (Annd and Myrtle) until 1925 when this tract was sold to Jay Buckley for eight hundred dollars.

The tract owned by Courtneys and Youngs was acquired by William Buckley about 1933. The Andy Rose farm was bought by William and Ralph Buckley. This brought the original farm together again.

The land on the head of Williams River was bought by Jay and William Buckley as a place to graze cattle. The first place bought was the John W. Sheets farm known as the "Dutch Bottom". This was later traded for the McCoy Place".

After the timber was cut from the "Big Survey" to the east of the original farm, Jay bought five hundred seventy-five acres of this cut-over timber land. He paid about three dollars per acre for this. This completed the farm as 1t stands today. It consists of about fourteen hundred acres.

THE BUCKLEYS AT SWAGO

The first account we have of the Buckley family was in Ireland at the time of the "Bulldog Kings". This family was of Protestant faith. At that time the Roman Catholics were in power there, and the Buckleys, being persecuted for their faith, moved along with many others to Belgium and Holland.

When word came to them that the colony of Virginia had been established, these families became interested in coming to America. They returned to England and made arrangements to sail for the New World.

They arrived at the mouth of the James River in 1621. The early settlers at Jamestown had become discouraged and had set sail for England. The two boats met at the mouth of the river, and the newcomers persuaded the early settlers to return. In this way the Buckley family lays claim to being among the first permanent settlers of Virginia.

Very little is known of the family from then until about the time of the Revolution. It is presumed that they with others worked their way westward to new lands and better hunting grounds.

About 1760 there were three brothers of the family at Winchester, Virginia. Two of them moved northwestward to what is now Ohio. The other one came across the mountain into the Southbranch of the Potomac, then south to its head and over into the Greenbrier Valley. This was Joshua.

He came down the river to what is now Hosterman and there found a family by the name of Collins. Joshua made his home with the Collins family until 1774. In 1773 he married the daughter Hannah. To them was born a son, Joe, on February 22, 1774.

Joshua had scouted the Greenbrier River Valley for a home about 1762 and took a grant for land. After his marriage to Hannah, she wrote a deed, and it was recorded in the Court House in Staunton, Virginia, in 1774.

On March 6, 1774, Joshua, with his family, arrived at the mouth of Swago Creek. Here he had found a spot where the Indians had cleared about two acres of land and had been raising corn. He built a lean-to shed against a large whitecak tree just above the highwater mark on the east side of the river about two hundred yards south of the mouth of Swago Creek. He had brought with him his wife and son, a horse, and provisions enough to last until a crop could be raised.

Joshua made a trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was there with General Washington. He was sent back to the valley as a scout for the army, and at the time of the Battle of Point Pleasant he was stationed at Gauley Bridge. If the Indians won the battle, a runner was to come to him, and he was to notify the settlers in the Greenbrier Valley to get into the fort at Lewisburg.

The white colony in Virginia had made a treaty with the Indians that they would not make settlements in the Ohio River Valley. The settlers in this section had persuaded the Governor of Virginia that the Greenbrier River flowed into the Atlantic Ocean. In this way they received their grants for land. These grants were known as "Tomahawk Grants". The grant for the Buckley lands was one of these and was signed by the King of England.

After moving to the mouth of Swago, three other children were born to Hannah and Joshua Buckley: John, Hettie, and Elizabeth.

The family cleared more of the bottom land and raised crops and livestock. Their chief source of income was from furs, for which they had a market. The family built a cabin directly opposite the mouth of the creek. When the children were grown, they married and settled nearby.

Hettie married George Kee and was given that part of the farm north of the Big Rocks in the river. Elizabeth married a Mr. McClure and moved to a farm at the end of Droop Mountain near where the railroad tunnel is now. Joe married Betty Gibson and was given the land around where Lewis Gay now lives.

John married Patsy Casebolt and lived on the west side of the river just opposite his father's home. When his father and mother became old, he moved to the east side of the river and built a house in the "Old Orchard" just north of where his father had built his cabin. John's family was born on the west side of the river, but later lived on the east side.

Joshua had given a plot of ground on the west side of the river for a church lot and a cemetery. At his death he and his wife Mary were buried there. This is the present site of Bethel Church. Their graves are just behind that structure.

Joshua Buckley II was born on the west side of the river on March 6, 1819. He farmed for a livelihood and also was the local Methodist minister. He disagreed with the leaders of the church as to its form of government and was one of the founders of the Methodist Protestant Church.

THE BUCKLEY MEETING HOUSE

When John Buckley married Patsy Casebolt about 1800, he built a house on the west side of the Greenbrier River. It was located just north of the mouth of Swago Creek and about two hundred feet back from the river's edge. At that time a few people had settled in the community, and they were invited to come to this house for worship.

As the community grew the house became too small to accommodate the crowds, and it was decided to build a church.

This building was located just south of the present Lower Church (Bethel). It was a log building and was large enough to accommodate a small congregation. This probably was built about 1825. This church was located on land donated by the Buckley family. The lot was about one-half acre in size. The lot was used as a cemetery for a long time and is still used for that purpose.

The church was known as "The Buckley Meeting House". The congregation was a member of the Methodist conference, and some of the ministers came from Hillsboro to hold services.

Joshua Buckley II, son of John, became a Methodist minister and preached at this church. He did not like the government of the Methodist church and joined the separation movement, which was to become the Methodist Protestant Church.

About 1875 the congregation became aware that the log church was too small to accommodate the congregation and that extensive repairs would have to be made before long. They decided to build a new church on the grounds of the log church. Most of the work on this church was done by local men without wages. The McNeill and Buckley families contributed most of the materials and labor. Jefferson Killingsworth was the chief foreman.

William McNeill and his brothers were good ax men. They chopped the trees for the frame, and John Buckley, who was good with the broad ax, finished the smoothing of the frame timbers.

Some other frame materials were cut on the Buckley farm at the head of the Thomas Hollow. This was fine poplar timber. The logs were hauled by oxen to the church site. This was done in April, and at one time the snow was so deep it worked through the ox bows.

These timbers were long enough to extend from one side of the church to the other. This is about twenty-four feet. One of these timbers when it dried split at one end. It then was necessary to bore a hole through it and insert a wooden pin.

The boards were cut on a "up and down" mill. This saw was like a crosscut saw and was worked up and down by water power. The finishings inside were done by hand planes.

This church is now known as Bethel and is being used by the Presbyterian congregation with the permission of the Buckley family. The lot when not used as a church ground reverts to the Buckley estate.

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GENEAOLOGY OF THE BUCKLEY FAMILY 17 -- to 1967

(1) Joshua Buckley Hannah Collins John Buckley (2)
Joe Buckley (3)
Hettie Buckley Kee (4)
Elizabeth Buckley McClure (5)
William Buckley
Isaac Buckley

(2) John Buckley Patsy Casebolt

Joshua Buckley (6)
Kate Buckley Friel (7)
Rachel Buckley McCollum

(3) Joe Buckley Betty Gibson

No Children

(4) Hettie Buckley George Kee

- Joshua Buckley Kee (8) Andrew Kee (9) John Kee (10) William Kee (11)
- (5) Elizabeth Buckley Arthur McClure

William Buckley Elizabeth Collison

Isaac Buckley

(6) Joshua Buckley Lucinda Adkison

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(1) Joshua Buckley Hannah Collins John Buckley (2)
Joe Buckley (3)
Hettie Buckley Kee (4)
Elizabeth Buckley McClure (5)
William Buckley
Isaac Buckley

(2) John Buckley Patsy Casebolt Joshua Buckley (6)
Kate Buckley Friel (7)
Rachel Buckley McCollum

(3) Joe Buckley Betty Gibson No Children

(4) Hettie Buckley George Kee Joshua Buckley Kee (8) Andrew Kee (9) John Kee (10) William Kee (11)

(5) Elizabeth Buckley Arthur McClure

> William Buckley Elizabeth Collison

Isaac Buckley

(6) Joshua Buckley Lucinda Adkison (7) Kate Buckley Jerry Friel Friel Jasper Friel Estella Jerusha Alson Buckley McKeever (122) (12) Mary Ellen Buckley Harper Adkison (123) Joe Adkison Inex Adkison Lightner (124) Nevada McNeill Kee (125) Lucy McNeill Overholt (126) Grace McNeill McNeill (127) (14) Elizabeth Susan Frances Buckley William C. McNeill Edna McNeill Kellison (128) Ruben S. McNeill (129) Roseanna Salome Silva Hannah, (15) Ureca Jane Buckley Callahan (130) Columbus Silva Genevive Silva (131) Myrtle Silva (132) Joseph Silva (133) (16) Sabina Laishley Buckley No Children Ruben McKeever Lucy Boggs Tuckwiller (134) Charles Boggs (135) (16) Sabina Laishley Buckley Hattie Ray Boggs Keightley (136) Chesley Pack Boggs (137) Dexter S. Boggs Ruth Young McNeill (138) Charles A. Young (139) William Maletus Young (140) (17) Margaret Catherine Buckley Charles Young Ella Thomas Kirby (141)

(17) Margaret Catherine
Buckley
Alvin Reece Thomas

(18) Nancy Alcinda Blake
Buckley
Asa Shinn McNeill

Notley Thomas (142)
Ulysses Guy Thomas (143)
Alta Thomas Rose (144)
Harry Clawson Thomas (145)
Rex Thomas (146)

Dennis Buckley McNeill (149)
Pearl McNeill Scott (150)
Forrest McNeill (151)
Clyde Buckley McNeill (152)
Paul McNeill (153)

(19) John Barnet Buckley Elizabeth Jane McNeill Jay Buckley (154)
Viola Winifred Buckley Aumiller (155)
Joshua Enoch Buckley (156)
William McNeill Buckley (157)
Addie May Buckley Graham (158)
Ralph Barnette Buckley (159)

(20) Addie Lida Lorn Buckley Joshua McNeill

Clabourne Park McNeill (160) Frankie McNeill White, Dennison (161)

(21) Martha Laura Irene Buckley Ulysses McNeill Ross McNeill (162) Glendolyn McNeill Goode (163) William McNeill (164) Dorothy McNeill Budd (165) Fred McNeill (166)

(122) Estella Jerusha Alson Buckley Oliver McKeever Lynette McKeever Curtis (147) Glendolyn McKeever Morris (148)

(123) Harper Adkison Lena Duncan Dale Adkison (201) Isaac Adkison (202) George Price Adkison (203)

(124) Inez Adkison Andrew Lightner No Children

(125) Nevada McNeill O. Hunter Kee

No Children

(126) Lucy McNeill Albert S. Overholt Paul Overholt (204) Gertrude Overholt Trent (205) William Overholt (206) Helen Overholt Isaacs (207) Earl Overholt (208)

(127) Grace McNeill George Douglas McNeill Ward McNeill (209) Elizabeth McNeill Dorsey (211) Louise McNeill Wilson, Pease (212) James McNeill (213)

(128) Edna McNeill Morton Kellison No Children

(129) Ruben Snow McNeill Olivine Runceman William McNeill (214)

(129) Ruben Snow McNeill Nellie Wade	No Children
(130) Roseanna Salome Silva Ira Hannah	No Children
(130) Roseanna Salome Silva Lawrence E. Callahan	Wo Children
(131) Genevive Silva	
(132) Myrtle Silva	
(133) Joseph Silva	
(134) Lucy Boggs Ray Tuckwiller	Ray Tuckwiller (215) Eugene Tuckwiller (216) Donald Tuckwiller (217)
(135) Charles Boggs	Charles Boggs, Jr. Joseph Boggs
(136) Hattie Ray Boggs Ralph D. Keightley	Ralph Keightley (219) William Keightley (220)
(137) Chesley Ray Boggs Margaret	James Boggs Betty Boggs
(138) Ruth Young N. Clawson McNeill	No Children
(139) Charles A. Young Nora Overholt	Fred M. Young (221)
(140) William Maletus Young Hazel Weiford	Everett Paul Young (222) Helen Young Jefferies (223)
(141) Ella Thomas James H. Kirby	No Children

(142)	Notley	Thomas
	Nellie	

Mary Thomas Waugh (224) Clarence Thomas (225) Irene Thomas Gillilan (226) Wanda Thomas (227) William Thomas (228)

(142) Notley Thomas Dolly McClung Dorothy Thomas Brewer (229)
Dollie Thomas Rhodes (230)
Glendolyn Thomas Fleshman (231)
Margaret Thomas Crookshank (232)
Frances Thomas Workman (233)
James Thomas (234)
Robert Thomas (235)
Ruben Thomas (236)
Harold Thomas (237)
Jackie Thomas (238)
David Thomas (239)
Fred Thomas (240)

(143) Ulysses Guy Thomas Opal Weiford Gladys Thomas Moore (241) James Harold Thomas (242) Harry Lee Thomas (243) Maxine Thomas Harper (244) Alfred Thomas (245)

(144) Alta Thomas Robert Rose Margaret Rose Lutz Mildred Rose Lang, Short (247) Robert Rose (248) Shannon Rose (249) Louise Rose McKage (250) Mary Ruth Rose Moore (251)

(145) Harry Clawson Thomas Ona Gibson Catherine Thomas Buckland (252) Rebecca Thomas Allen (253) Wilda Thomas Mann (254) Harry Thomas, Jr. (255)

(146) Rex Thomas

(147) Lynette McKeever Curtis No Children

(148) Glendolyn McKeever Morris

(149) Dennis McNeill Leona Kessler Dowell McNeill Hugh McNeill

(150) Pearl McNeill Paul Scott Anna Pauline Scott Wilson

(151) Forrest McNeill	
(152) Clyde Budkley McNeill Irene McNutt	Steven McNeill
(153) Paul McNeill Elizabeth Fisher	Patricia McNeill
(154) Jay Buckley	
(155) Viola Winifred Buckley Aaron Aumiller	Forrest Stanford Aumiller Glen Onega Aumiller William Buckley Aumiller Betty Jane Aumiller Kenealy
(156) Joshua Enoch Buckley Martha Harris	Geraldine Rena Buckley Dilley Helen Jean Buckley Roberts
(157) William McNeill Buckle Eula McCauley	y No Children
(158) Addie May Buckley Walter Graham	Mary Elizabeth Graham Weiford Jay Buckley Graham
(159) Ralph Barnette Buckley Dorothy Monroe	No Children
(160) Clabourne Park McNeill Nellie Lightner	Stowe McNeill
(161) Frankie McNeill Clyde White	No Children
(161) Frankie McNeill Albert Dennison	Eleanor Dennison Lambert Howard Dennison Martha Dennison Shober Albert Mark Dennison
(162) Ross McNeill Betty	Nayan McNeill
(163) Glendolyn McNeill Frank Goode	Glendolyn Rose Goode

(164)	William McNeill Clarese	
(165)	Dorothy McNeill Harold Budd	Harold Budd, Jr. John McNeill Budd
(166)	Fred McNeill	
(201)	Dale Adkison Veda McCoy	
(202)	Isaac Adkison Dorothy Cunningham	
(203)	George Price Adkison Nelda	Viola Catherine Adkison David Adkison Janet Adkison
(204)	Paul Overholt Fanny Golden	Mary Frances Overholt Cochran Joan Overholt Hall
(205)	Gertrude Overholt Tom Trent	Torrence Watson Trent Pamela Lucille Trent Keyser Meredith Overholt Trent
(206)	William Overholt Lorna Smith	Robert Overholt
(207)	Helen Overholt Ken Isaacs	No Children
(208)	Earl Overholt Hannah Mary Coghill	Judith Lynn Overholt John Overholt Deborah Overholt
(209)	Ward McNeill Laura Nelson	John Douglas McNeill
(211)	Elizabeth McNeill C. P. Dorsey	No Children
(212)	Louise McWeill Wilson	No Children

KAN TE	
(212)	Louise McNeill Roger Pease
(213)	James McNeill Annabell Dunbrack
(214)	William R. McNeill Esther Henry
(215)	Ray Tuckwiller
(216)	Eugene Tuckwiller
(217)	Donald Tuckwiller

Douglas Pease

Michael Blix McNeill Cheryl Irene McNeill

Scott McNeill

- (217) Donald Tuckwiller
- (219) Ralph Keightley
- (220) William Keightley
- (221) Fred M. Young Veda Moore

No Children

- (222) Everette Paul Young
- (223) Helen Young Robert Jefferies

Robert Jefferies Barnette Jefferies Linda Jefferies

- (224) Mary Thomas Waugh
- (225) Clarence Thomas
- (226) Irene Thomas Gillilan
- (227) Wanda Thomas
- (226) William Thomas
- (229) Dorothy Thomas Brewer

- (230) Dolly Thomas Rhodes
- (231) Glendolyn Thomas Fleshman
- (232) Margaret Thomas Crookshank
- (233) Frances Thomas Workman
- (234) James Thomas
- (235) Robert Thomas
- (236) Ruben Thomas
- (237) Harold Thomas
- (238) Jack Thomas
- (239) David Thomas
- (240) Fred Thomas
- (241) Gladys Thomas John Moore, Jr.
- (242) James Harold Thomas Winona Eades
- (243) Harry Lee Thomas Louise Smith
- (244) Maxine Thomas Sam Harper
- (245) Alfred Thomas Wanda Defibaugh

Vicki Lynn Moore

Lana Kay Thomas

Ellen Thomas

Beth Lorraine Harper

Timothy Thomas Kimberly Thomas William Guy Thomas

(246) Margaret Rose Edward Lutz (247) Mildred Rose Timothy Lang Maurice Lang (247) Mildred Rose Ann Short Randolph Short (248) Robert Rose Sally Rose Nola Jones Robert Rose Thomas Rose (249) Shannon Rose (250) Louise Rose Robert McKage Robert McKage Edward McKage (251) Mary Ruth Rose Jack Moore Steven McNeill Bettina McNeill Somerville Agnes McLaughlin Jane McNeill Forrest Stanford Aumiller No Children Margaret Shucker Maron Aumiller Dennis Aumiller Glen Omega Aumiller Daryl Aumiller John (Jack) Aumiller Wilma Hayes Melody Aumiller William Aumiller Walter Aumiller William Buckley Aumiller Steven Aumiller Ethel Klase Gretchen Aumiller Winifred Kenealy Betty Jane Aumiller Jane Kenealy Wilbur Kenealy Charles Kermit Dille Geraldine Buckley Charles Kermit Dilley Martha Kay Dilley Elizabeth Buckl John Buckling Roberts Phillip Rebirds -10Mary Elizabeth Graham William Paul Weiford

Donna Jean Weiford Dunbrack Walter William Weiford

Jay Buckley Graham Helen Frances Cunningham

William Ervin Graham Elizabeth Ann Graham Jaynell Susan Graham

Stowe McNeill Nancy Siple

Perry McNeill

Eleanor Dennison Harper Lambert

Howard Dennison

Martha Dennison James Shober

Albert Mark Dennison

Mary Frances Overholt Howe Preston Cochran II

Joan Overholt Joseph E. Hall

John Douglas McNeill Vivian

Cheryl Irene McNeill Larry McCallister

Bettina McNeill Kirk M. Somerville

Dennis Aumiller Sally

Martha Kay Dilley Jacob Mullet Howe Preston Cochran, III Paul Rossie Cochran

Jeffrey Marshall Hall

Laurch Ann McNeill Rosemarie McNeill Grace Allison McNeill

Charles Jacob Mullet

Donna Jean Weiford George Douglas Dunbrack Addie Buckley Dunbrack

Torrence Watson Trent Irma Anderson Trent Todd Meredith Trent

Pamela Lucille Trent Thomas Keyser Sandra Dare Keyser John Trent Keyser

Meredith Overholt Trent Etheline Fink Gale Elyse Trent
Bruce Cameron Trent
Meredith Lee Trent
Kevin Hunter Trent